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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/473,868	12/28/1999	KAZUTAKA HANAOKA	0941.63502	1561

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EXAMINER

ABDULSELAM, ABBAS L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2674

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/473,868	HANAOKA ET AL.
	Examiner Abbas I Abdulselam	Art Unit 2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 04/17/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Nakamura (USPN 6005646) does not disclose a common voltage which is substantially equal to a central voltage of an alternate-current driving voltage signal. However, as shown in the art rejection below, Nakamura teaches a scenario where Vs-Vm equals to small value and the absolute value of the pixel voltage is to be manipulated and is set to the value of Vs-Vm. See col. 5, lines 10-30 and col. 6, lines 58-61. See Fig 2A. It would have been obvious that the smallest value of the absolute value of Vs-Vm is zero.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (USPN 6005646).

Regarding claims 1 and 8, Nakamura teaches a liquid crystal display system with a crystal layer (1) located between glass substrates (2) and (3). See Fig 3. Nakamura teaches a thin film transistor, TFT (6) in connection to a voltage application driving method. Nakamura teaches

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display of pixels as it relates to LCD device as well as electrodes of thin film transistors.

Furthermore, Nakamura teaches source electrodes of the TFT with respect to their corresponding display electrodes, and also teaches a common electrode (22) located on the opposed substrate. Moreover, Nakamura teaches the display electrode in connection with a formation of auxiliary capacitor (10). See column 4, lines 1-17, and Fig 7. However, Nakamura does not specifically teach a common voltage which is equal to a central voltage, and the production of an electric field between an auxiliary electrode and conductor pattern. Nakamura on the other hand teaches about a voltage application control method for applying a voltage to the liquid crystal layer. Nakamura also teaches an application of a voltage to provide an effective electric field. See column 3, lines 15-20, and column 4, lines 29-39.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize Nakamura's voltage application control method and production of an electric field. One would have been motivated in view of Nakamura that a voltage application control method and a process of providing an effective electric field can be used to furnish the desired common voltage and electric field.

Regarding claims 2-5, 9-12 and 15 it has been discussed above. In addition, Nakamura teaches a given voltage applied to a crystal layer in comparison with a threshold voltage. See column 1, lines 55-60.

Regarding claim 6 and 13, Nakamura teaches about a smaller vertical electric field in the vicinity of the electrodes. See column 2. Lines 60-67.

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Regarding claim 7 and 14, Nakamura teaches a liquid crystal layer and a transformation of its initial homogeneous state using a high a high speed. Nakamura also teaches the application time of a pulse as it relates to the speed during the transition state. See column 1, lines 5-10 and column 4, lines 48-63.

Regarding claim 16, Nakamura teaches a transition time as compared to H-com inversion and the degree of performance with respect to liquid crystals A, B, and C.

Conclusion

3.. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to **Abbas abdulselam** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-8591**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richard Hjerpe**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4709**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

Hand delivered responses should be brought to crustal park II, crystal drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology center 2600 customer Service office whose telephone number is **(703) 306-0377**.



RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Abbas abdulselam

Examiner

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